IN THE CLAIMS:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a support surface;

a source of light located proximate to the support surface;

a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface; and

a reflector located above the support surface and spaced apart from the support surface in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay.

11. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is substantially planar.

12. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is curved.

13. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

14. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

15. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a support surface;

a source of light located proximate to the support surface;

a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface;

a reflector located above the support surface in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay;

wherein the reflector is a polarizing holographic beam splitter.

16. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay.

17. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.

18. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

19. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

20. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

21. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

22. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light, wherein the optical element includes a reflector, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

27. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

28. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is a holographic beam splitter.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light;

wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

32. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source

of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light;

wherein the microdisplay is a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

33. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

34. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

35. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

36. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that generates an image thereon having a lateral extent;

a source of light located within a distance of the microdisplay, the distance being less than the lateral extent of the generated image on the microdisplay; and

a reflector spaced apart from the microdisplay in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay.

37. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay;

a source of light located proximate to the microdisplay; and

a reflector spaced apart from the microdisplay in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay;

wherein the source of light is closer to the microdisplay than to the reflector.

38. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a reflective microdisplay that generates an image thereon having a lateral extent; and

a source of light located within a distance of the microdisplay, the distance being less than the lateral extent of the generated image on the microdisplay;

wherein light from the source of light is eventually directed toward the microdisplay.

39. (New) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light.

40. (New) A display system as defined in claim 39, wherein the optical element includes a reflector.

41. (New) A display system as defined in claim 40, wherein the reflector is curved.

42. (New) A display system as defined in claim 39, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay.

43. (New) A display system as defined in claim 24, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.